

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LISBON 02359 111100Z

53

ACTION EUR-25

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R 111005Z JUN 74

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9784

INFO AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

AMCONSUL LUANDA

AMCONSUL OPORTO UNN

AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA UNN

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

UNCLAS LISBON 2359

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, MZ

SUBJ: FUTURE MOZAMBIQUE GOV. GEN. DR. SOARES DE MELO

COMMENTS ON GUMO AND FRELIMO

SUMMARY: DR. SOARES DE MELO ON ARRIVAL IN LISBON JUNE 6 TOLD PRESS REPS THAT MOZAMBIQUE'S MOST PRESSING PROBLEMS ARE FINANCES AND NEED DECOLONIZE RAPIDLY. SAID FRELIMO ENJOYS GREAT POPULAR SYMPATHY WHILE CHARACTERIZING GUMO AS WEAK AND OPPORTUNISTIC. END SUMMARY.

1. DR. SOARES DE MELO, EXPECTED TO BE NEW GOV. GEN. OF MOAZAMBIQUE, ARRIVED IN LISBON JUNE 6 AND GAVE SHORT AIRPORT INTERVIEW TO WAITING JOURNALISTS. DR. MELO REFUSED TO GO INTO INDPEENDENCE ISSUE SAYING THIS UP TO MOAZAMBIQUE PEOPLE TO DECIDE. HOWEVER HE TOOK OPPORTUNITY TO REASSURE MINORITY GROUPS IN MOAZMBIQUE THAT THEY HAVE NOTHING TO FEAR FROM INDPPENDENCE, AND THAT FRELIMO HAS SAID IT NEEDS WHITES' EXPERIENCE AND PRESENCE TO PROSPER IN FUTURE.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 LISBON 02359 111100Z

2. MAJOR PROBLEMS FACING MOAZAMBIQUE ARE FINANCIAL AND

MUST BE RESOLVED IMMEDIATELY, SAID DE MELO. EQUALLY IMPORTANT IS DISMANTLING OF COLONIAL SYSTEM AND ITS RAPID REPLACEMENT BY DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS. COLONY'S BALANCE OF PAYMENTS PROBLEMS WERE CALLED "DRASTIC", AND WILL REQUIRE LOANS FROM METROPOLE TO SOLVE.

3. GREAT SYMPATHY FOR FRELIMO PROGRAM EXISTS AMONG AFRICANS, CLAIMED DE MELO, MANY OF WHOM ARE HOWEVER NOT YET SUFFICIENTLY COGNIZANT OF POLITICS TO CHOOSE AMONG ALTERNATE POLITICAL GROUPS. REGARDING ONE SUCH GROUP -GUMO-DE MELO HAD FOLLOWING COMMENT: "JUDGING BY ITS PROGRAM I FEEL GUMO'S POLITICAL LINE IS A LITTLE CONFUSING. FRELIMO LABELS THESE PROGRAMS FASCIST. ANYWAY I BELIEVE GUMO'S REPRESENTATIVITY IS VERY WEAK AND PERHAPS A LITTLE OPPORTUNISTIC. HOWEVER THESE THINGS CAN ONLY BE SEEN CLEARLY AFTER A CERTAIN PASSAGE OF TIME."

4. DE MELO SAID AT ANOTHER POINT THAT HE HAD NOT PERSONALLY MET YET WITH FRELIMO REPRESENTATIVES. HE SAID HE FELT THAT FRELIMO WOULD BE ABLE TO ACCEPT PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT'S PROGRAM REGARDING MOZAMBIQUE AND WOULD BE ABLE COLLABORATE WITH FUTURE GOV. GEN. OF MOZAMBIQUE IN ITS IMPLEMENTATION.

5. REGARDING SOUTH AFRICAN ATTITUDES TOWARD MOZAMBIQUE, DE MELO VOICED OPINION THAT S.A. IS NOT IMPERIALISTICALLY INCLINED, AND PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT SHOULD BE ABLE CONSERVE AND MAYBE EVEN IMPROVE TIES OF FRIENDSHIP. ECONOMICS AND OTHER (UNSPECIFIED) AFFINITIES WERE CITED AS REASONS FOR PREVAILING GOOD RELATIONS.

6. COMMENT: DE MELO'S STRONGLY PRO-FRELIMO LINE SUGGESTS THAT HE AND MINISTER ALMEIDA SANTOS WHO CHOSE HIM HAVE ALREADY DECIDED THE SELF-DETERMINATION ISSUE IN FAVOR OF FRELIMO. SCOTT

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